

CALIFORNIA GRAND JURIES

The California Penal Code describes the organization, powers and the duties, and general structure of the Grand Jury. All of California's 58 counties are required to have Grand Juries. There have been recent changes in Section 904.6 of the Penal Code (1991) which permits any county to have an additional Grand Jury at the discretion of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. The Penal Code also allows county district attorney's the option of utilizing special Grand Juries in the handling of criminal cases. Although this alternative is offered in Penal Code §904.6, some counties choose to maintain their regular use of Grand Jury for criminal and civil duties.

The major function of a Civil Grand Jury is to oversee all aspects of the legislative and administrative departments that make up county, city and special district governments. It has the power to examine and guarantee that those who are given the responsibility of managing these offices are: truthful, dedicated, and sincere in their efforts to serve the public. There are forty-two states that have some form of Grand Jury, but California and Nevada mandate the impaneling of a Grand Jury each year. The Lassen County Grand Jury is a judicial body of nineteen (19) citizens impaneled to watch over the citizens of Lassen County.

Grand jurors are forbidden by law, to disclose any evidence acquired during investigations, or disclose the names of complainants or witnesses.

After investigations are completed, it is the responsibility of the Grand Jury to recommend changes that should be made in order to increase efficiency, and improve services to the general public. Some of the recommendations made by the Grand Jury are to save the taxpayer money.

Special commendations may be made to departments or agencies for excellence in management. The reports that are released to the public, have been collected, voted on by the 12 members, and the results carefully edited by the editing committee for a Final Report at the end of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury's term of office.

The Final Lassen County Grand Jury Report is distributed to the public and to public officials. Its distribution also includes: Lassen County Times newspaper, KSUE/KJDX radio station, the Susanville Library and is available in the Jury Commissioner's office at 220 S. Lassen Street, Susanville, California 96130. The telephone number is (530)251-8109.